

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A crystalline polyester having a number-average molecular weight of from 5000 to 10000, a weight-average molecular weight of from 150000 to 8000000, a maximum peak temperature of heat of fusion of from 60° to 150°C, and a ratio of a softening point to a maximum peak temperature of heat of fusion (softening point/peak temperature) of from 0.6 to 1.3.

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2. The crystalline polyester according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline polyester has a number-average molecular weight of from 5500 to 9000, a weight-average molecular weight of from 300000 to 6000000, a maximum peak temperature of heat of fusion of from 80° to 140°C, and a ratio of a softening point to a maximum peak temperature of heat of fusion (softening point/peak temperature) of from 0.9 to 1.2.

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3. The crystalline polyester according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline polyester comprises 10% by weight or more of a polymeric component having a molecular weight of 50000 or more.

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4. The crystalline polyester according to claim 1, wherein the crystalline polyester comprises 10 to 30% by weight of a polymeric component having a molecular weight of 50,000 or more.

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5. The crystalline polyester according to claim 1, which is obtained by polycondensing an alcohol component and a carboxylic acid component, wherein

a molar ratio of the carboxylic acid component to the alcohol component (carboxylic acid component/alcohol component) is 0.9 or more and less than 1.0.

6. The crystalline polyester according to claim 5, wherein the carboxylic acid component comprises 60% by mol or more of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid compound having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

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7. The crystalline polyester according to claim 5, wherein one aliphatic dicarboxylic acid compound occupies 60% by mol or more of the carboxylic acid component.

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8. The crystalline polyester according to claim 5, wherein the alcohol component comprises 60% by mol or more of an aliphatic diol having 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

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9. The crystalline polyester according to claim 5, wherein one aliphatic diol occupies 70% by mol or more of the alcohol component.

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10. A toner comprising the crystalline polyester as defined in claim 1 as a resin binder.

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11. The toner according to claim 10, wherein the crystalline polyester is contained in an amount of from 1 to 40% by weight of the resin binder.

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12. The toner according to claim 10, wherein the resin binder further

comprises an amorphous resin having a ratio of a softening point to a maximum peak temperature of heat of fusion (softening point/peak temperature) of more than 1.3 and 4.0 or less.

- 5 13. The toner according to claim 12, wherein the amorphous resin is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an amorphous polyester, an amorphous polyester-polyamide, a vinyl resin, and a hybrid resin comprising two or more resin components.
- 10 14. The toner according to claim 12, wherein the amorphous resin has a softening point of from 70° to 180°C.
- 15 15. The toner according to claim 12, wherein a weight ratio of the crystalline polyester to the amorphous resin (crystalline polyester/amorphous resin) is from 1/99 to 50/50.
16. The toner according to claim 10, wherein the toner is a pulverized toner obtained by a kneading and pulverization method.